

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Uwe Ackermann et al.
Application Number: 10/583,628
Filing Date: 06/20/2006
Group Art Unit: 4118
Examiner: Corey John Hall
Title: DRYING BASKET AND FASTENING DEVICE FOR
FASTENING A DRYING BASKET ON A CLOTHES DRYER

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.192, Appellants hereby file an Appeal Brief in the above-identified application. This Appeal Brief is accompanied by the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(1)	REAL PARTY IN INTEREST.....	3
(2)	RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES	3
(3)	STATUS OF CLAIMS	3
(4)	STATUS OF AMENDMENTS	3
(5)	SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER.....	3
(6)	GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL	7
(7)	ARGUMENT	7
(8)	CONCLUSION	15
	CLAIMS APPENDIX	16
	EVIDENCE APPENDIX	20
	RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX... ..	21

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is BSH Bosch Und Siemens Hausgerate GMBH. The application and the invention disclosed in the application were assigned to BSH Bosch Und Siemens Hausgerate GMBH by virtue of an Assignment executed on June 15 and 16, 2006, which is recorded at Reel 18077, Frame 313 of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Assignment Records, effective June 20, 2006.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 10, 13-23 and 25-27 are pending in the application. Claims 20 and 22 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 10, 13-19, 21, 23 and 25-27 stand rejected in view of prior art and the rejection of these claims is being appealed.

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All Amendments, including the Amendment filed May 6, 2010, have been entered.

(5) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A description of the subject matter recited in the pending claims that are argued separately is set forth below, along with an indication of the portions of the specification and drawings that provide support for these features. In the following description, the reference numbers refer to the elements of the embodiments illustrated in the drawings. Also, the claims are discussed in dependency order, rather than strictly numerical order.

A. Claim 10

Independent claim 1 is directed to a clothing dryer. Claim 10 recites a rotary drum 3 that can be fed through a feed opening 1, through which drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall 7 into a front end plate 2. See Figure 1 and the specification at page 4, lines 4-14.

Claim 10 recites that the end plate 2 includes two openings 5, 6 adjacent to the feed opening 1. See Figures 2 and 4 and the specification at page 4, lines 4-14.

Claim 10 further recites a drying basket 4 with a lattice type basket projecting into the drum 3. The drying basket 4 includes two longitudinal supports 14, 15 in the form of wires, the supports 14, 15 comprising integral connecting devices 18. Claim 10 recites that the integral connecting devices 18 each include a bent end section 19/20 and a bent support section 22 located between the bent end section 19/20 and the longitudinal support 14/15. See Figure 3 and the specification at page 4, lines 19-29.

Claim 10 further recites that the basket 4 is supported demountably on the end plate 2, and that the basket 4 is mounted by inserting the bent end sections 19/20 into the openings 5/6 in the end plate 2 and allowing the bent support sections 22 to rest against the end plate 2. See Figures 1 and 2 and the specification at page 5, lines 5-11.

B. Claim 15

Claim 15 depends from claims 10 and 14 and further recites that a demountable lint filter 13 is arranged in the end plate 2, which filter 13 is adjacent to the opening 1. Claim 15 further recites that the openings 5/6 in the end plate 2 and the connecting devices 18 are covered by the lint filter 13. As illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, projections 25 on the ends of the upper diaphragm 24 of the lint filter 13 cover the openings 5/6 in the end plate 2 when the lint filter is mounted in the end plate. Thus, the projections 25 on the ends of the lint filter will cover the connecting devices of the basket 4 when the basket is also mounted on the end plate 2. See Figures 5 and 6 and the specification between page 4, line 31 and page 5, line 3.

C. Claim 23

Claim 23 depends from claim 10 and further recites that the engagement of the bent end section 19/20 in the openings 5/6 and the engagement of the bent support section 22 with the end plate 2 cause the drying basket 4 to project into the drum 3 in a cantilevered fashion. See Figures 1 and 2 and the specification at page 5, lines 5-11.

D. Claim 25

Claim 25 depends from claim 10 and further recites a lint filter 13 that is mounted in a slot 12 formed in the end plate 2. Claim 25 recites that the lint filter 13 covers the openings 5/6 in the end plate and the bent end sections 19/20 of the wires. The projections 25 on the ends of the lint filter will cover the connecting devices of the basket 4 when the basket is also mounted on the end plate 2. See Figures 5 and 6 and the specification between page 4, line 31 and page 5, line 3.

E. Claim 16

Claim 16 is directed to a laundry dryer that includes a housing, a rotary drum 3 disposed within the housing and including a rear wall 7 having inlet openings 8 through which an air flow enters the rotary drum 3. Claim 16 recites that a feed opening 1 in the housing provides access to the rotary drum 3. See Figure 1 and the specification at page 4, lines 4-14.

Claim 16 recites that an end plate 2 is disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening 1 and that the end plate 2 includes two basket openings 5/6 disposed near opposing ends of the end plate 2. See Figures 2 and 4 and the specification at page 4, lines 4-14.

Claim 16 further recites a drying basket 4 including two elongated longitudinal supports 14/15 in the form of wires, and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports 14/15. Claim 16 recites that each longitudinal support includes a connecting device 18 comprising a bent end section that forms a hook 19/20 and a bent supporting section 22 located between the bent end section and the lattice basket. See Figure 3 and the specification at page 4, lines 19-29.

Claim 16 recites that the drying basket 4 is removably connected to the end plate 2 and that it projects into the rotary drum 3 toward the rear wall 7 with each of the

basket openings 5/6 receiving one of the bent end sections 19/20, and each of the supporting sections 22 engaging a surface of the end plate 2 to support the drying basket 4 within the rotary drum 3. See Figures 1 and 2 and the specification at page 5, lines 5-11.

F. Claim 26

Claim 26 depends from claim 16 and recites that the engagement between the bent end sections 19/21 and the basket openings 5/6 and between the bent supporting sections 22 and the end plate 2 cause the drying basket 4 to project into rotary drum 3 in a cantilevered fashion. See Figures 1 and 2 and the specification at page 5, lines 5-11.

G. Claim 21

Claim 21 is directed to a method for removably connecting a drying basket to a laundry dryer. Claim 21 recites providing the laundry dryer comprising a housing, a rotary drum 3 disposed within the housing, a feed opening 1 in the housing providing access to the rotary drum 3, and an end plate 2 disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening 1 and including two basket openings 5/6. See Figures 1, 2 and 4 and the specification at page 4, lines 4-14.

Claim 21 further recites providing a drying basket 4 including two elongated longitudinal supports 14/15 and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support 14/15 including a connecting device 18 having a bent end section 19/20 in the form of a hook and a bent supporting section 22 located between the lattice type basket and the bent end section. See Figure 3 and the specification at page 4, lines 19-29.

Claim 21 also recites inserting each bent end section 19/21 into one of the basket openings 5/6 with the drying basket 4 projecting into the rotary drum 3. Finally, claim 21 recites positioning each bent supporting section 22 on a surface of the end plate 2 to support the drying basket 4 within the rotary drum 3. See Figures 1 and 2 and the specification at page 5, lines 5-11.

(6) GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

A. Whether claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23 and 26 are obvious, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-220399 to Asada et al. (hereinafter “Asada”), in view of Great Britain Patent No. 1,491,852 (hereinafter “GB ’852”), and further in view of German Patent No. 27 06 595 (hereinafter “DE ’595”).

B. Whether claims 14, 15, 19, 25 and 27 are obvious, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Asada, in view of GB ’852, and further in view of DE ’595, US Patent No. 4,720,925 to Czech et al. (hereinafter “Czech”) and a Maytag Appliance Owner’s Manual (hereinafter “Maytag”).

(7) ARGUMENT

A. Claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23 and 26

As noted above, claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Asada, in view of GB ’852, and further in view of DE ’595. For the reasons provided below, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

1. Claims 10 and 13

Claim 10 is directed to a dryer which includes a rotary drum that can be fed through a feed opening. Claim 10 recites that drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall of the drum into an end plate having two openings adjacent to the feed opening. Claim 10 further recites a drying basket with a lattice type basket projecting into the drum, the drying basket including two longitudinal supports in the form of wires. Claim 10 recites that these supports comprise integral connecting devices that each include a bent end section, as well as a bent support section located between the bent end section and the longitudinal support. Claim 10 further recites that the basket is supported demountably on the end plate and that the basket is mounted by inserting the

bent end sections into the openings in the end plate and allowing the bent support sections to rest against the end plate.

The Asada reference is directed to a dryer that includes a drying rack which can be mounted inside a drum of the dryer. The Office Action refers to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 16 of the Asada reference. The drying rack illustrated in Figure 16 includes two longitudinal supports 51, with hooked ends 51a. A plurality of cross wires 52 run between the two longitudinal supports 51. The drying rack also includes two triangular-shaped support elements 53 which are attached to the bottom of the longitudinal supports 51.

To mount Asada's drying rack in the drum of a dryer, one would hook the hooked ends 51a of the longitudinal supports 51 around the front of the opening of the dryer, similar to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 3 of Asada. The support elements 53 would then extend downward inside the drum opening.

In the last Office Action, the Examiner admitted that the Asada reference fails to disclose or suggest that an end plate at the front of the dryer would include two openings, as recited in claim 10. The Examiner also admitted that the hooked ends 51a of the longitudinal supports 51 of the Asada drying rack are not inserted into any openings located in the end plate of the Asada dryer.

The Examiner asserted that the features missing from Asada are disclosed in either GB '852 or DE '595. The Examiner further asserted that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the dryer and drying rack disclosed in Asada, based on the teachings of GB '852 or DE '595, to arrive at a dryer as recited in claim 10. Appellants respectfully disagree on both points.

It appears that GB '852 and DE '595 are basically directed to the same dryer and drying rack. As illustrated in both references, the drying rack includes a grid formed of longitudinally extending wires 3 and cross wires 4. Support elements 7/8/9 are connected to the bottom of the support grid. The support elements include projections 8 on the front of the drying rack, and the projections 8 are intended to rest on the rim of the opening into the dryer drum, as illustrated in Figure 2 of both references.

A triangular shaped support structure is also formed at the rear of the drying rack. The triangular support structure includes two arms 5 and a circular ring 6, which is

described as an “annulus.” The circular ring 6 is held above a top surface of the drying rack by the two arms 5.

When the drying rack is to be mounted inside the drum of the dryer, the circular ring 6 is placed over a “hub” 11 that projects from the center of the rear wall of the drum. The hub 11 rotates with the drum while the dryer is operating. However, because the circular ring 6 is considerably larger in diameter than the hub 11, the rotation of the hub 11 does not cause the rack to rotate with the drum. Instead, the drying rack is suspended at the rear by the ring 6 and arms 5, and at the front by the projections 8 that rest on the rim 12 of the opening into the drum.

DE ‘595 also illustrates that there are two holes 15 on the inner wall of the door 13 which closes the opening into the dryer. The holes 15 are designed to receive the ends of the projections 8 (which are resting upon the rim 12) when the door is closed. The holes 15 are not provided to support the projections 8. If that were the case, as soon as the door is opened, the front of the drying rack would no longer be supported. Instead, it is clear that the projections 8 are supported by the rim 12 of the opening. However, the holes 15 in the door 13 are provided to allow the door 13 to close when the rack is present inside the drum.

As explained above, claim 10 of the present application requires that the openings which receive the bent end sections of the longitudinal supports of the drying basket are located in the end plate located at the front of the dryer. The Examiner admits that the Asada reference fails to disclose or suggest that any portions of a longitudinal support of a drying rack or a drying basket would be inserted into any type of openings.

The Examiner appears to assert that GB ‘852 and DE ‘595 show the features missing from Asada. The features missing from Asada are the provision of openings in the end plate where the feed opening into the drum is located, and inserting bent ends of the wires of the drying rack into those openings. And, as explained above, GB ‘852 and DE ‘595 fail to disclose these features. As explained above, these two references also show that the projections 8 on the front of a drying rack rest on the rim of the feed opening into the drum. Like Asada, these references also fails to disclose or suggest providing openings in the end plate, and mounting the ends of wires of a drying rack in such openings.

To the extent GB '852 and DE '595 provide any teaching that could be applied to the Asada dryer, that teaching would be to form holes in a door of the dryer to accommodate the ends of wires of a drying basket that are hooked over the rim of the feed opening into the drum. However, GB '852 and DE '595 fail to disclose or suggest forming holes in the end plate, and then mounting the drying basket in such holes.

In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that GB '852 and DE '595 would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Asada so that Asada includes openings in its end plate, and so that the ends of a drying rack are then inserted into the new openings formed in the end plate. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the only way to find a motivation to modify Asada to arrive at a structure as recited in claim 10 is through the improper use of hindsight, in view of Applicants' own invention.

For all the reasons given above, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is improper, and that claim 10 is allowable over even the improper combination. Claim 13 depends from claim 10 and is allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features it recites.

2. Claim 23

Claim 23 depends from claim 10 and is allowable for all the reasons given above in connection with claim 10.

In addition, claim 23 further recites that the engagement of the bent end sections in the opening and the engagement of the bent support section with the end plate causes the drying basket to project into the drum in a cantilevered fashion.

In the GB '852 and DE '595 references, which are the only references which show an end of the longitudinal supports being inserted into openings, the drying rack is not supported in a cantilevered fashion. In fact, the openings in the door of the GB '852 and DE '595 references are not even used to provide any support to the drying rack. Instead, the rack is supported by engagement between the bottom of the projections 8 on the rim 12 of the feed opening into the drum, and by engagement of the circular ring 6 with the hub 11 projecting from a rear wall of the drum. Thus, GB '852 and DE '595 fail to disclose or suggest any mounting structure that results in the drying rack being supported in a cantilevered fashion.

Asada discloses a drying rack that is arguably supported in a cantilevered fashion within a drum of a dryer. However, in all of Asada's embodiments, the support elements on the front of a drying basket are hooked over the rim of the feed opening into the drum. And as explained in the present application, this can result in the support elements interfering with the seal provided at the feed opening. The interference of the support elements with the seal can result in process air leaking from the drum during a drying cycle, and damage to the seal itself.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is also allowable for these additional reasons.

3. Claim 16-18

Claim 16 is directed to a laundry dryer which includes a housing and a rotary drum disposed within the housing. Claim 16 recites that the drum has a rear wall with inlet openings through which an airflow enters the rotary drum. Claim 16 also recites a feed opening in the housing providing access to the rotary drum, and an end plate disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening. Claim 16 recites that the end plate includes two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate. Claim 16 also recites a drying basket including two elongated longitudinal supports in the form of wires, and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports. Claim 16 recites that each longitudinal support includes a connecting device comprising a bent end section that forms a hook and a bent supporting section located between the bent end section and the lattice basket. Claim 16 further recites that the drying basket is removably connected to the end plate and that it projects into the rotary drum toward the rear wall. Each of the basket openings receives one of the bent end sections, and each of the supporting sections engages a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

As explained above, the Asada reference fails to disclose or suggest a drying basket having bent end sections on a longitudinal support, wherein the bent end sections are received in basket openings located on an end plate of the dryer. The GB '852 and DE '595 references also fail to disclose or suggest that ends of longitudinal supports of a drying basket are inserted into openings on an end plate of a dryer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable for reasons similar to

those explained above in connection with claim 10. Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16 and are allowable for the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite.

4. Claim 26

Claim 26 depends from claim 16 and is allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 16.

In addition, claim 26 further recites that engagement between the bent end sections and the basket openings and between the bent supporting sections and the end plate cause the drying basket to project into the rotary drum in a cantilevered fashion. As noted above, Asada, GB '852 and DE '595 all fail to disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is also allowable for these additional reasons.

5. Claim 21

Claim 21 is directed to a method for removably connecting a drying basket to a laundry dryer. Claim 21 recites providing a laundry dryer comprising a housing, a rotary drum disposed within the housing, a feed opening in the housing providing access to the rotary drum, and an end plate disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening and including two basket openings. Claim 21 recites providing a drying basket including two elongated longitudinal supports and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support including a connecting device having a bent end section in the form of a hook and a bent supporting section located between the lattice type basket and the bent end section. Claim 21 also recites inserting each bent end section into one of the basket openings with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum, and positioning each bent supporting section on a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

As noted above, Asada, GB '852 and DE '595 all fail to disclose or suggest providing a laundry dryer having an end plate that includes two basket openings. The references also fail to disclose or suggest inserting each bent end section of a longitudinal support of a drying basket into the openings in the end plate. For all these

reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is also allowable over the cited references.

B. Claims 14, 15, 19, 25 and 27

As noted above, claims 14, 15, 19, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Asada, in view of GB '852, and further in view of DE '595, US Patent No. 4,720,925 to Czech et al. (hereinafter "Czech") and a Maytag Appliance Owner's Manual (hereinafter "Maytag"). For the reasons provided below, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

1. Claim 14

Claim 14 depends from claim 10. As explained above, the combination of Asada with GB '852 and DE '595 is improper, and even the improper combination of these references would not result in a dryer having openings in an end plate, and where the ends of a drying rack are inserted into openings in such an end plate. The Czech and Maytag references fail to cure these deficiencies of Asada, GB '852 and DE '595. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 10, and for the additional features it recites.

2. Claim 15

Claim 15 depends from claims 10 and 14 and further recites that the openings in the end plate and the connecting devices are covered by the lint filter. Although Czech discloses a dryer with a lint filter in an end plate, Czech also fails to disclose or suggest forming openings in the end plate that receive the ends of a drying basket. None of the asserted references disclose or suggest forming openings in an end plate, and inserting the ends of a drying basket into such openings. Thus, Czech does not cure the deficiencies of Asada, GB '852 and DE '595 discussed above. Moreover, nothing in Czech suggests that a lint filter should cover any additional openings in an end plate in which it is mounted. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is allowable for the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 10 and 14, and for the additional features it recites.

3. Claim 19

Claim 19 depends from claim 16. As explained above, the combination of Asada with GB '852 and DE '595 is improper, and even the improper combination of these references would not result in a dryer having openings in an end plate, and where the ends of a drying rack are inserted into openings in such an end plate. The Czech and Maytag references fail to cure these deficiencies of Asada, GB '852 and DE '595. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 16, and for the additional features it recites.

4. Claim 25

Claim 25 depends from claim 10 and is allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 10.

In addition, claim 25 further recites a lint filter that is mounted in a slot formed in the end plate, wherein the lint filter covers the openings in the end plate and the bent end sections of the wires. As explained above, none of the references, including Czech and Maytag, disclose or suggest forming openings in an end plate and inserting the bent end section of wires of a drying basket into such openings. Further, Czech and Maytag fail to disclose or suggest that a lint filter would cover other openings formed in an end plate. For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 is allowable.

5. Claim 27

Claim 27 depends from claim 16. As explained above, the combination of Asada with GB '852 and DE '595 is improper, and even the improper combination of these references would not result in a dryer having openings in an end plate, and where the ends of a drying rack are inserted into openings in such an end plate. The Czech and Maytag references fails to cure these deficiencies of Asada, GB '852 and DE '595. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 27 is allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 16, and for the additional features it recites.

(8) CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing discussion, Appellants respectfully request reversal of the Examiner's rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

/James E. Howard/

James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715
October 14, 2009

BSH Home Appliances Corporation
100 Bosch Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-639-7644
Fax: 714-845-2807
james.howard@bshg.com

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1-9. Canceled.

10. (Rejected) A drier, comprising:

a rotary drum that can be fed through a feed opening, through which drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall into an end plate having two openings adjacent to the feed opening; and

a drying basket with a lattice type basket projecting into the drum, the drying basket including two longitudinal supports in the form of wires, the supports comprising integral connecting devices that each include a bent end section and a bent support section located between the bent end section and the longitudinal support, wherein the basket is supported demountably on the end plate, and wherein the basket is mounted by inserting the bent end sections into the openings in the end plate and allowing the bent support sections to rest against the end plate.

11-12. Canceled.

13. (Rejected) The drier according to Claim 10, wherein the drying basket has a longitudinal support on both longitudinal sides.

14. (Rejected) The drier according to claim 10, wherein a demountable lint filter is arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening.

15. (Rejected) The drier according to Claim 14, wherein the openings in the end plate and the connecting devices are covered by the lint filter.

16. (Rejected) A laundry drier comprising:

a housing;

a rotary drum disposed within the housing and including a rear wall having inlet openings through which an air flow enters the rotary drum;

a feed opening in the housing providing access to the rotary drum;

an end plate disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening and including two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate;

a drying basket including two elongated longitudinal supports in the form of wires and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support including a connecting device comprising a bent end section that forms a hook and a bent supporting section located between the bent end section and the lattice basket, the drying basket being removably connected to the end plate and projecting into the rotary drum toward the rear wall with each of the basket openings receiving one of the bent end sections, and each of the supporting sections engaging a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

17. (Rejected) The laundry drier according to claim 16, wherein the longitudinal support and connecting device are integrally formed from a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into the desired configuration.

18. (Rejected) The laundry drier according to claim 16, wherein each bent end section includes a bending section curving away from the drying basket.

19. (Rejected) The laundry drier according to claim 16, further comprising a removable lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, the end plate including an elongated recess extending between the basket openings and the lint filter being received into the recess.

20. (Objected To) The laundry drier according to Claim 19, wherein the each projection extends over one of the basket openings and restricts the bent end sections from being removed from the basket openings.

21. (Rejected) A method for removably connecting a drying basket to a laundry drier, the method comprising the following acts:

providing the laundry drier comprising a housing, a rotary drum disposed within the housing, a feed opening in the housing providing access to the rotary drum,

and an end plate disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening and including two basket openings;

providing the drying basket including two elongated longitudinal supports and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support including a connecting device having a bent end section in the form of a hook and a bent supporting section located between the lattice type basket and the bent end section;

inserting each bent end section into one of the basket openings with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum; and

positioning each bent supporting section on a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

22. (Objected To) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:
providing a lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm;
providing an elongated recess within the end plate extending between the basket openings;
inserting the lint filter into the recess with each of the projections extending over one of the basket openings and restricting the bent end sections from being removed from the basket openings.

23. (Rejected) The drier according to claim 10, wherein the engagement of the bent end section in the opening and the engagement of the bent support section with the end plate support cause the drying basket to project into the drum in a cantilevered fashion.

24. Canceled.

25. (Rejected) The drier of claim 10, further comprising a lint filter that is mounted in a slot formed in the end plate, wherein the lint filter covers the openings in the end plate and the bent end sections of the wires.

26. (Rejected) The laundry drier of claim 16, wherein the engagement between the bent end sections and the basket openings and between the bent supporting sections and the end plate cause the drying basket to project into rotary drum in a cantilevered fashion.

27. (Rejected) The laundry drier of claim 16, wherein the mounting of the bent end sections into the basket openings and the engagement between the bent supporting sections and the end plate do not prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end plate.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None